

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The Notice to Mariners is published by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), under the authority of Department of Defense Directive 5105.40, to advise mariners of important matters affecting navigational safety, including new hydrographic discoveries, changes in channels and navigational aids, etc. (U.S. Code Title 10, Sec. 442 and Title 44, Sec. 1336 refer). Nothing in the arrangement of information implies endorsement or acceptance by NGA in matters affecting the status and boundaries of States and territories. The Notice to Mariners presents corrective information affecting charts, NGA/DLIS Catalog of Maps Charts and Related Products, Coast Pilots, Sailing Directions, Fleet Guides, USCG Light Lists, NGA List of Lights, Radio Navigational Aids and other products produced by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, National Ocean Service and U.S. Coast Guard.

Information for the Notice to Mariners is contributed by the following Agencies: National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) (Department of Defense) for waters outside the territorial limits of the United States; National Ocean Service (NOS) (Department of Commerce), which is charged with the surveys and charting of the coasts and harbors of the United States and its territories; the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) (Department of Homeland Security), which is responsible for the safety of life at sea and the establishment and operation of aids to navigation; and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Department of Defense), which is charged with the improvement of rivers and harbors of the United States. In addition, important contributions are made by foreign hydrographic offices and cooperating observers of all nationalities.

For further information concerning NGA hydrographic products and services, including the Maritime Safety Information Web site, users may contact:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>DSN</u>	<u>FAX</u>
Maritime Division	301-227-3370	287-3370	301-227-4211
World Wide Navigational Warning Service	301-227-3147	287-3147	301-227-3731
Maritime Safety Information Web site	301-227-3296	287-3296	301-227-4211
Notice to Mariners: Regions 1 and 2	301-227-3122	287-3122	301-227-3175
Notice to Mariners: Regions 3 thru 9	301-227-3146	287-3146	301-227-3175
Sailing Directions, Fleet Guides	301-227-3183	287-3183	301-227-3174
Navigation Publications	301-227-3120	287-3120	301-227-3731

The Maritime Safety Information Website can be accessed directly at (<http://pollux.nss.nga.mil>). For your convenience NGA provides three e-mail addresses. For information affecting Notice to Mariners use NavNotices@nga.mil, for information affecting Sailing Directions and all other navigational publications use NAVPubs@nga.mil, for information concerning the Maritime Safety Information Website, use webmaster_nss@nga.mil.

Mariners are requested to notify NGA of discrepancies in charts and publications, using the Marine Information Report and Suggestion Sheet at the back of this Notice to Mariners. This form should also be used to report permanent changes, additions, or deletions from charted or published information. Reports which constitute an immediate hazard to navigation should be sent to the nearest NAVAREA Coordinator via coast radio stations. All reports are greatly appreciated.

Cover Photo: The **USS CAPE ST. GEORGE (CG-71)**, the first ship in the United States Navy to bear this name, is the twenty-fifth ship in the *Ticonderoga* class of Aegis guided missile cruisers and the seventeenth built by Ingalls Shipbuilding of Pascagoula, Mississippi. **USS CAPE ST. GEORGE** commemorates the battle fought in the South Pacific off the island of New Ireland in the Bismarck Archipelago on 25 November 1943. Built to support Carrier Battle Groups, Amphibious Assault Groups, as well as interdiction and escort missions, the **CAPE ST. GEORGE'S** mission is two-fold. First, to prevent the employment of weapons against friendly forces by destroying enemy missiles, aircraft, submarines, and surface ships. Second, to conduct offensive actions against the enemy through the use of long range anti-ship missiles, land attack missiles, and naval gunfire support. **CAPE ST. GEORGE'S** diverse combat capability is directed by the Aegis Weapons System (AWS), a fully integrated electronic detection, engagement, and fire control system. The ship's weapons include Standard surface-to-air missiles, Harpoon anti-ship missiles, Tomahawk cruise missiles, anti-submarine rockets (ASROCs), torpedoes, two Phalanx Close-in Weapons Systems (CIWS) for self-defense against enemy aircraft and missiles, and two five-inch, rapid-fire deck guns. In addition, she carries two SH-60 Sea Hawk helicopters for anti-submarine warfare. In a historic development, the **CAPE ST. GEORGE** is the first surface warship certified to use ECDIS-N (Electronic Charting Display and Information System-Navy) with the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency's (NGA) Digital Nautical Chart (DNC) as the primary navigational system. This technology allows navigators to use digital chart data with interactive computers and real-time positioning systems to safely navigate the ship and to control the ship's steering based on inputs from the navigation sensors and an approved voyage plan. Commissioned 12 June 1993, the **CAPE ST. GEORGE** has a displacement of 9600 tons fully loaded, is 567 feet long, has a beam of 55 feet and a draft of 34 feet. She carries a crew of 340 Sailors, 27 Chief Petty Officers, and 33 Officers. The homeport of the **USS CAPE ST. GEORGE** is Norfolk, Virginia.